

Dogan House
Manassas National Battlefield Park
Groveton, Prince William County
Virginia

HABS No. VA-581

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PHOTOGRAPHS
WRITTEN HISTORICAL AND DESCRIPTIVE DATA

Historic American Buildings Survey
National Park Service
Washington 25, D. C.

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Dogan House

Owner: National Park Service (U. S. Government)

Date of Erection: Composite structure, nucleus probably early 19th C.
(See below).

Builder: Henry Dogan or son, William Henry Dogan.

Style: Primitive, Saddle-bag type

Present Condition: Ruinous - to be stabilized.

Number of Stories: $1\frac{1}{2}$

Materials of Construction: Log and framed sections. Local redstone
foundation.

Architectural Notes:

Left unit of the Dogan House as one faces it from the East is built of oak logs roughly squared with a modified type of notching. Shurtleff in The Log Cabin Myth identifies the type as that used in Virginia for housing slaves or farm help.

The right half of the house would seem to be one of the outhouses of William Henry Dogan's "Peach Grove" estate, relocated when the main house was burned on the eve of the Civil War.

From a close analysis of Dogan property records in the Court House of Prince William County, reveals three periods of building activity - one, 1817-1819; another 1840-1845, and the third from 1856 to 1860. There is no conclusive answer as to dates of the right half of the structure.

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In 1881-82 a lean-to addition was made across the west side of the saddle-bag house. The exterior including the log portion was covered with clapboards. In 1948 this non-historic addition was removed.

Additional History Notes:

The progenitor of the Dogan family was Henry (1759-1823), who served in the Revolutionary War. County records reveal that he owned considerable real and personal property. In his will dated March 12, 1816 he left to his wife, Mary Wheeler Dogan, everything during her lifetime. At her death she gave to their oldest son, William Henry, the home tract at Groveton, referred to by the father as "land I purchased of (Mann) Page." After 1832, son William paid the taxes and extant county records indicate that he developed his holdings and acquired others.

William Henry Dogan's principal plantation or the "Peach Grove" estate contained 586 with a total assessed valuation for taxes in 1851 of \$7,325 (a considerable sum for the time). William died in 1854 when a division was made among the heirs. His widow, Lucinda Lewis Dogan received the main tract of "Peach Grove" with buildings for life. The area then contained 170 acres and Mrs. Dogan managed the place for many years, living until 1910.

When war came to the Manassas area, the people of the community were caught as in a vice. The residents of this "debatable land" endured great hardship and personal sacrifice. It is a matter of record that the Dogan stone farmhouse was partially burned in 1860,

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when Lucinda with her young family took up residence in this outbuilding. The Confederates occupied the Dogan farm at the time of the first battle. The Dogan House was one of the main landmarks of the Second battle of Manassas in 1862. With the Stone House it stands as one of the two remaining original structures in the park.

In 1947 this historic building was purchased by the Prince William County Chamber of Commerce and two years later was donated for park purposes. On August 27, 1949, upon the eve of the 87th anniversary of the beginning of the Second Battle there were special presentation ceremonies, with the late Douglas Southall Freeman participating.

References: Historic Structures Report: William Henry Dogan House,
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Shurtleff, Harold R., The Log Cabin Myth, Cambridge,
Massachusetts, 1939, p. 185.

Prepared by: Russell Jones and Worth Bailey, HABS, National Park Service,
June, 1959.

Approved: _____

Dick Sutton
Chief Architect

Date 11/18/59